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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1915

AMERICAN ACHIEVEMENTS AND AMERICAN FAILURES IN PUBLIC HEALTH WORK¹

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PUBLIC health work in America began early in the eighteenth century with the introduction into New England of the Oriental inoculation for small-pox by Boylston, and has achieved world-wide renown early in the twentieth century with the scientific sanitation of the tropical Isthmus of Panama by Gorgas. The educating, organizing and equipping with sanitary machinery of a swiftly growing population, at first sparse but later sometimes intensely congested, and always fluid and unstable under the pressure of migrations and immigrations such as the world has never seen, is in itself a great achievement. And when that population is, like ours, compounded of all the races of mankind, lodged in a new environment and subjected to an unfamiliar and quickly changeable climate, public health work becomes exceptionally difficult. Nevertheless, under leaders like Boylston and Waterhouse, Shattuck, Walcott and Billings, and Reed, Lazear and Gorgas—to whom we may now proudly add the name of Strong—sanitary information has been gathered and spread abroad and applied; vital statistics have been collected and studied; sanitary libraries have been formed; boards of health have been organized and directed; public health laboratories have been established; and epidemiology and other branches of sanitary science enriched and extended.

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

¹ Address of the President, American Public Health Association, Rochester, N. Y., September 7, 1915.